

(Within Washington, D.C. District)

BA-1125

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

MDH #051255125

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Mantua Farm				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Southwest side of Mantua Mill Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Glyndon				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Baltimore		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments				
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Edith B. Bensal				
STREET AND NUMBER: Mantua Farm				
CITY OR TOWN: Glyndon		STATE: Maryland 21071		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Baltimore County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Towson		STATE: Maryland 21204		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 5946/335				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

MANTUA FARM is a stone house of two and one-half storeys, two bays in length, its principal front to the east, with a frame wing to the south, two storeys in height, three bays in length. Both of these sections have gable reefs, and the similarity in their Greek-revival detailing as well as in such construction items as nails suggests both sections were built at about the same time, ca. 1840. The frame wing has no north wall (nor has it a north foundation wall), suggesting it was constructed in sequence after the stone section.

A two storey, three bay wing of stuccoed concrete block, scored in imitation of ashlar, was added to the north in 1937, and a frame, two storey, one bay extension was added at the south end in 1933. Earlier in the twentieth century, a one bay square, two storey shed roofed addition was added behind the frame south wing.

The stone portion of Mantua Farm is taller than most houses of this region, and more impressive. Originally, stucco covered the walls, but it has been removed from the principal facade. The principal entrance is through the northerly bay, and consists of double doors, paneled, with pyramid raises, flanked by Doric engaged columns supporting an entablature which extends over flanking sidelights which are narrow sliding sash windows, the muntins of which describe, alternately, circles and concave diamonds. The entire entrance feature is surrounded with simple trim suggestive of Doric pilasters and entablature. A similar feature embellishes the west door directly through the house, with the engaged columns omitted. In the southerly bay of both facades is a three-part window consisting of a 6/6 window flanked by 2/2 windows, the outer ones being one-third the width

(continued)

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## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☒ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mantua Farm, situated on the southwest side of Mantua Mill Road, was the dwelling of a successful businessman and farmer. It is distinguished by its strong Greek Revival style and its imposing appearance.

The house was built on part of the Brian Philpot, Jr. property, acquired at the time Nicholson's Manor was purchased and divided in 1757. Architecturally, it fits into the period of the 1840's and thus it was probably built for John Philpot, the son of Brian Philpot, Jr. John Philpot married his cousin, Susan Stewart. He studied law and made his home at Mantua Farm only briefly before moving into Baltimore City. In 1872, the property came into the hands of the Gill family who had settled the area before 1800 and owned land on the opposite side of Mantua Mill Road. George Washington Gill left the Mantua Farm to his son, Andrew, who was the manager of John Talley Johns' vast real estate and an official of the Md. Penitentiary in the late 19th century. Following the first World War, the farm was sold to the William Vess Elder family and subsequently to the Bensals.

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1876, 1896, 1911

Steiner, Bernard C., Men of Mark in Maryland. v. 2 (Wash. D.C. 1907) p.258

Genealogy and Biography of Leading Families of Baltimore.

Chapman Publishing Co. (N.Y. 1890). pp. 438, 980.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and Baltimore County  
(Philadelphia, 1881). p. 863.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **364.4 acres**

Acreage Justification:

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Catherine F. Black and James T. Wellen, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

Werthington Valley Historical District Project

DATE

Jan. 1, 1976

STREET AND NUMBER:

1114 Bellemore Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21210

## 12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Question 7

of the center one. Wood panels extend this feature to the floorline, and simplified Doric trim surrounds the whole, nearly identical to the doorway. A 6/6 window is in each second storey bay (the northerly one of the west facade being related to the level of the stair inside), each surrounded with similarly simple trim suggesting the Doric order. A dormer with a segmentally-arched roof and top sash is above each second storey window, and a massive stone chimney, partially projecting from the end wall, rises centered at the south end. The roof is covered with standing seam tin.

A one storey perch with an extremely low-pitched hip roof extends across the west front, and a perch once extended across the east front, no longer in evidence. A three-part window similar to the existing was once in the north end wall, now covered by the later wing. Shutters or blinds were once at the windows, now removed.

The north wing recalls the simple Greek revival detailing of the house, especially by the three-part window in its southerly bay and its scored stucco. The south addition to the south wing copies the character of the latter.

A wide stairhall extends through the northerly bay of the main house, with an open stair rising to the second floor in a continuous semi-elliptical curve, tangent to the north and west walls, unenclosed below. Handrails flank the staircase, but the northerly one stops when it touches the north wall a few steps from the bottom. The slim nearly-round walnut rail is supported by moderately-sized turned walnut newels and round tapered tiger maple balusters. The open staircase continues to the third floor from the second in two short flights with an intermediate landing.

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A single large room is south of the hall in the first storey, while the space above is divided into two rooms, the westerly one of which has been further divided to create a passage to the south wing. Paneled interior shutters are fitted to the three-part windows, which are, like interior doors, trimmed with corner-block trim. The door between the hall and the drawing room is now toward the west end, but it was, originally, centered. The mantel in the first storey appears to be a replacement, in an earlier style, with fluted pilasters, but original mantels with simple pilasters remain in the second storey. Doors have eight panels, loose mouldings and shallow raises.

The third storey is finished into two rooms, consisting of a smaller one above the east end of the hall, and a larger one to its south. Through a ceiling hatch, the rafters are seen to be half-lapped and pegged at the ridge.

In the recess west of the chimney breast is the door to the south wing. In the first storey, the dining room, next to the stone house, has a mantel with Doric pilasters, the fluted profile recessed, supporting a paneled frieze. Doors are of eight panels. An enclosed secondary stair rises to the second floor within the center bay of the south wing, and the southerly bay is the current kitchen with no period detailing. The second floor of the south wing is plainly finished, and in its unfinished attic the second storey ceiling joists are hewn, while the sawn rafters are mitered at the ridge. The extremely plain character of the second floor, and the mitered rafters, a late detail, suggest that the wing may have been raised in height in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

An unfinished cellar extends beneath the stone portion of the house, and beneath the southerly portion of the south wing; the two areas are connected by

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a cellar passage through the ample crawl space. In the south wing, first floor joists above the cellar are straight-sawn, laid north-south; above the crawl space, they are logs laid east-west, a further indication that more than one construction period might be represented in the wing, although no obvious structural lines were observed. The overall dimensions of the south wing are, approximately,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  by  $42\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

West of the south wing stands a one storey log smoke house, with a gable roof; its approximate dimensions are 12 feet square.

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